

Guide to the Microfilm Edition

of the

PETER B. PORTER PAPERS

in the

Buffalo and Erie County Historical Society

MSS. C80-1

Microfilm M69-3

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Buffalo and Erie County Historical Society

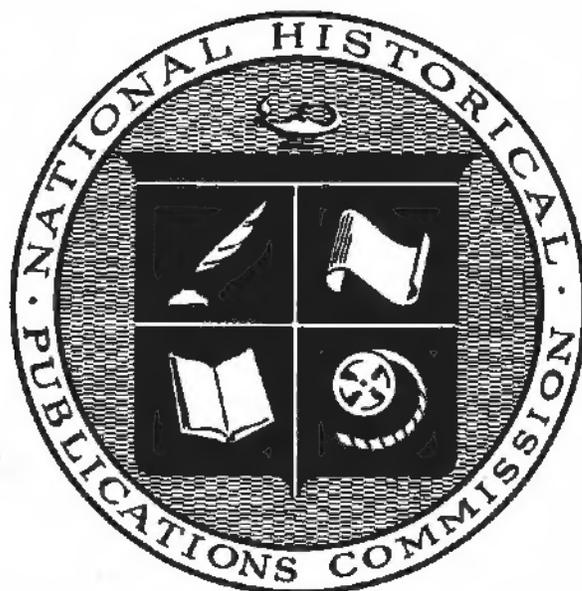
Buffalo, New York

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This pamphlet and the microfilm edition of the Peter B. Porter Papers it describes were made possible by a grant of funds from the National Historical Publications Commission, Washington, D. C.



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Preface

This pamphlet and the microfilm publication that it describes are the products of a joint venture of the Buffalo and Erie County Historical Society and the National Historical Publications Commission as part of the latter's program to encourage the preservation and broader dissemination of historical source materials. The Historical Society thanks the Commission for its support of this project and helpful counsel concerning it. The editors also express their appreciation, for advice and assistance, to Professor I. Frank Mogavero of Niagara University, author of the unpublished study, "Peter B. Porter, Citizen and Statesman," a doctoral dissertation (University of Ottawa, 1950), which places major emphasis on Peter B. Porter's work as boundary commissioner under the Treaty of Ghent; and to Professor Joseph A. Grande of D'Youville College, who is completing a doctoral dissertation at the University of Notre Dame on Porter's political career to 1828.

The microfilm has been made with the conventional targets in the film to assist the user -- title pages and roll notes for each roll, and sub-roll notes for classes (series) within the roll.

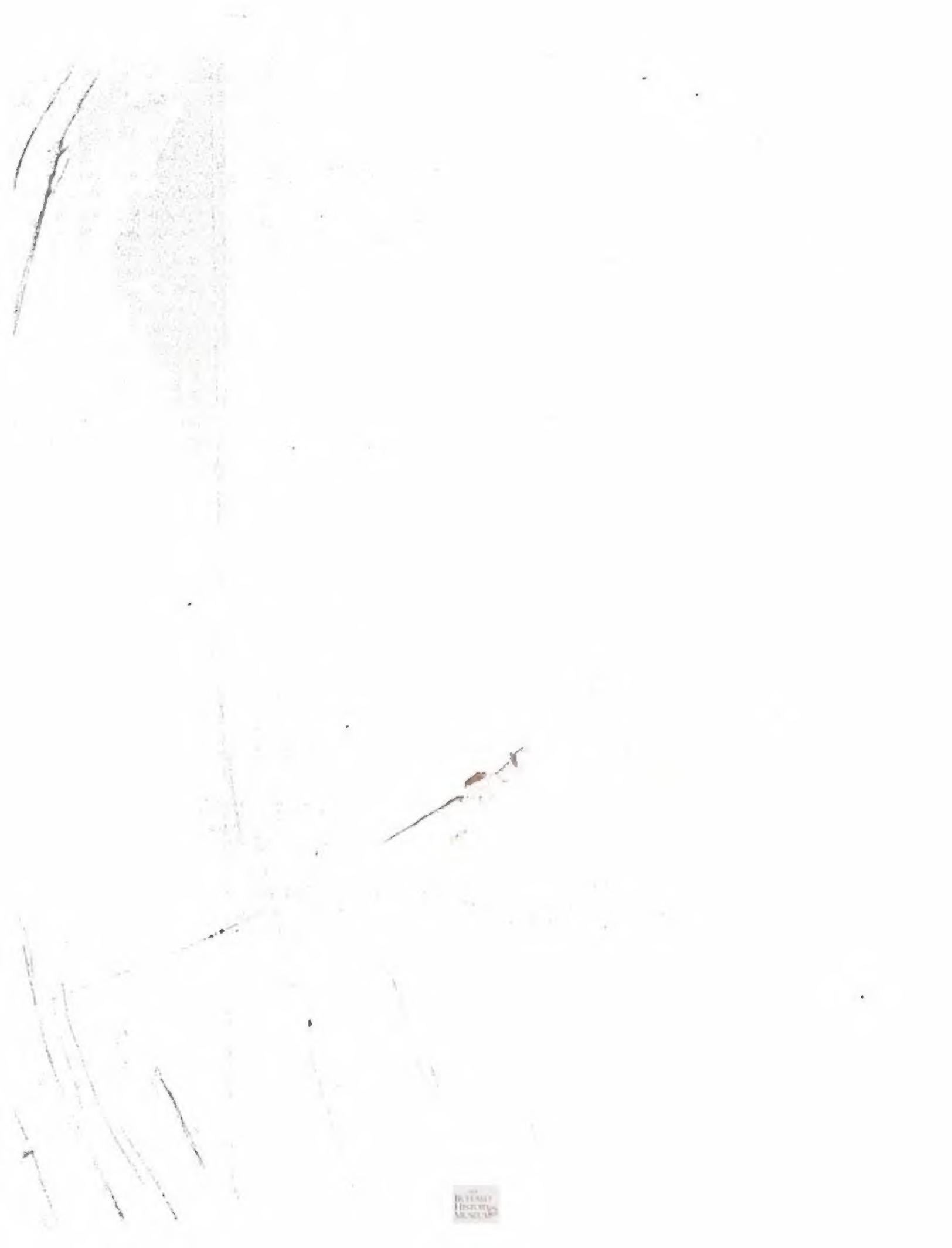


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NOTICE

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The user is cautioned that the publication of the contents of this microfilm may be construed as constituting a violation of literary property rights. These rights derive from the principle of common law that the writer of an unpublished letter or other manuscripts has the sole right to publish the contents thereof, unless he affirmatively parts with the right; the right descends to his legal heirs regardless of the ownership of the physical manuscript itself. It is the responsibility of an author or his publisher to secure the permission of the owner of literary property rights in unpublished writings.

Partial List of Correspondents

The names of some of the notable persons whose letters are represented in the Porter Papers are listed below. The Author Catalog, which is reproduced on roll 1, shows the names of all correspondents.

Abert, J.J.	Forward, Oliver
Adams, John Quincy	Fraser, Donald
Armstrong, John	Gaines, Edmund P.
Astor, John Jacob	Gardner, C.K.
Barclay, Anthony	Gates, John B.
Bird, William A.	Geddes, James
Boyd, John P.	Granger, Erastus
Breckenridge, John	Grayson, John B.
Brown, Jacob	Izard, George
Bull, Absalom	Jackson, Andrew
Busti, Paul	Leavenworth, Henry
Calhoun, John C.	Love, Thomas C.
Cary, Trumbull	Macomb, Alexander
Cass, Lewis	McClure, George
Catlin, George FF-29	Monroe, James
Chapin, Cyrenius	Ogden, David A.
Claiborne, Thomas	Parrish, Jasper
Clay, Henry	Roberdeau, Isaac
Clinton, DeWitt	Storrs, Henry
Dallas, A.J.	Tracy, Albert H.
Dearborn, Henry	Trimble, Allen
Delafield, Joseph	Troop, Robert
DeVeaux, Samuel	White, Canvass
DeWitt, Simeon	White, Stephen
Douglass, D.B.	Wilkeson, Samuel
Elliott, Jesse D.	Wilkinson, James
Evans, David E.	Wright, Asher
Fillmore, Millard	

Introduction and Biographical Sketches

The manuscripts reproduced in the thirteen rolls of this microfilm publication comprise the papers of Peter B. Porter (1773-1844) and of his grandson, Peter A. Porter (1853-1925). The bulk of the collection is the papers of Peter B. Porter covering the period from 1810 to 1844.

Peter B. Porter was one of the influential national and local figures in the early history of Western New York, with a distinguished record as a Congressman, as a major general of militia in the War of 1812, and as a Secretary of War. He was one of the controllers of the early transportation industry of the area and a pioneer in other aspects of its economic development. He was born in Litchfield, Connecticut, on August 14, 1773, the son of Col. Joshua Porter and Abigail Buell. For a genealogy of the family, see H. P. Andrews, The Descendants of John Porter of Windsor, Conn. in the Line of his Great Great Grandson, Colonel Joshua Porter, M.D., of Salisbury, Litchfield, Conn. (2 vols., 1893). He was graduated from Yale College in 1791, studied law in the famous law school of Judge Tipping Reeve in Litchfield, was admitted to the bar, and took up residence in 1795 in Canandaigua, New York, where his older brother Augustus (1769-1849) was established. He moved to Black Rock, a settlement about 2½ miles north of the still unincorporated village of Buffalo on the Niagara River in 1810, and was to be associated with this area the rest of his life. In 1818 he married the widowed Letitia Breckenridge Grayson, daughter of John Breckenridge of Kentucky. In the late 1830's he moved his place of residence to Niagara Falls, New York, where he died on March 20, 1844.

Porter was clerk of Ontario County from 1797 to 1805; a member of the New York State Assembly in 1802; a member of the New York State Commission on Inland Navigation in 1810, favoring a state-owned canal by the inland route, the plan eventually adopted; a member of the House of Representatives in the 11th, 12th, and 13th Congresses, 1809 to 1813, where he favored internal improvements (roads and canals) with Federal subsidy (land grants), and 1815 to 1816; a major general of militia in the War of 1812. He was one of the War Hawks in the Congress and when the War of 1812 began he did not seek re-election but entered the military service. From May to November 1812 he was quartermaster general of New York; in December 1812, serving as a volunteer under the command of Gen. Alexander Smyth, his difference with that commander resulted in public controversy and a bloodless duel. In 1813 he was authorized to raise a brigade of militia. With these he obtained permission to incorporate a "corp" of about 600 Six Nations Indians, and his leadership of this brigade in the Campaign of 1814 on the Niagara Frontier -- the Battles of Chippewa, Lundy's Lane, and Fort Erie -- won him great military renown. He was made a major general of militia in New York, awarded a gold medal by Congress, and was being considered for high command in the Regular Army at the war's end.

Porter resigned from the 11th Congress to accept the position of secretary of state of New York in 1816; was defeated for the governorship of New York in 1817; served as American Commissioner under the 6th and 7th articles of the Treaty of Ghent to determine the international boundary from the St. Lawrence River to the Lake of the Woods, 1816 to 1827; was a regent of the University of the State of New York, 1824 to 1830; served as Secretary of War in the last year of John Quincy Adams' administration, from June 1828 to March 1829; and was Whig presidential elector in 1840. Originally a member of the Republican (Democratic-Republican) Party, he became one of the organizers and architects of the Whig Party and was a political confidant and personal friend of Henry Clay,

In his business affairs, Porter was, with his older brother, Augustus, Benjamin Barton, and Joseph Annin, a member of the firm of Porter, Barton & Company, which obtained a monopoly, by contract signed in 1805 with the State of New York, of the transportation business on the Niagara Portage, from Lewiston below the Falls to Schlosser above. Even earlier than this, he had been involved, with his brother, in contracts with the Federal Government for supplying the frontier forts [Detroit, Fort Wayne, and Fort Dearborn (Chicago)], and these contracts continued. The firm of Porter, Barton & Company developed an establishment not only for the portage of goods around the Falls, but for the transportation of goods across Lakes Ontario, Erie, St. Clair, Huron, and Michigan, offering its services to merchants and traders in the West. His business interests in the 1820's and 1830's came to include development of steamship and railroad operations. Both he and his brother had extensive landholdings in Black Rock and Niagara Falls, including Goat Island at the Falls. For a biography of Augustus Porter, containing many references to Peter B. Porter, see Charles M. Robinson, "Life of Augustus Porter" (Buffalo Historical Society Publications, Vol. 7, 1904), and in the same volume, the autobiographical "Narrative of Early Years in the Life of Judge Augustus Porter," followed by selections of some of his letters.

Peter A. Porter, grandson of Peter B. Porter, was born in Niagara Falls, New York, on October 10, 1853, the son of Colonel Peter Augustus Porter, who was killed at Cold Harbor. He attended St. Paul's School in Concord, New Hampshire, and was graduated from Yale College in 1874. He was engaged in banking and was an extensive landowner, president of the village of Niagara Falls in 1878, a member of the New York State Assembly in 1886 and 1887; and nominated by Independent Republicans, endorsed by the Democrats and Independence League, and elected to the House of Representatives in the Sixtieth Congress (1907-1909). He declined to be a candidate for renomination. He died on December 15, 1925.

Peter A. Porter had an intense interest in regional history and was one of the leaders of the Niagara Frontier Landmarks Association, an early organization active in the marking of historic sites on the Niagara Frontier. He was a leader in the movement for the preservation of Old Fort Niagara. Another of his interests was the historical cartography of the Great Lakes and the Mississippi River. He was a bibliophile and collector of prints, assembling a fine collection of the editions of Father

Louis Hennepin that was later presented to the then Buffalo Historical Society by John D. and Frances H. Larkin. This collection Porter described in a pamphlet, The Works of Father Hennepin; a Catalogue of the Collection Brought Together by Peter A. Porter (New York, 1910, 13 p.; another edition, Niagara Falls, 1910, 17 p.). Porter's collection of Niagara Falls prints and engravings, many of them hand-colored, was acquired by the Historical Society in 1942. These prints are not reproduced in this microfilm, but a small quantity of pictorial materials that he planned to use in his own publications are. His awareness of the value of historical source materials, including the papers of his own family, was acute, and papers of Peter B. Porter show many evidences of the grandson's careful preservation of them.

The papers of Peter A. Porter in this microfilm publication relate almost entirely to his published and projected historical writings. The latter are in preliminary rough-draft form, with many revisions and interlineations. Among his published writings, which are not included in the microfilm, are a Brief History of Old Fort Niagara (1896); Champlain, Not Cartier, Made First Reference to Niagara Falls (1899); Landmarks on the Niagara Frontier (1914); Niagara, an Aboriginal Center of Trade (1906); "Old Fort Niagara" (from the 19th Report of the State Reservation Commission, 1903); Old Niagara County's Share in the Battle of Lake Erie (1913); Ship Canal around Niagara Falls (n.p., n.d. Folder); Story of the Old Stone Chimney (1915). The papers include a little correspondence (chiefly letters received) concerning his business interests in Niagara Falls, but regrettably none relating to his service as Congressman.

Arrangement of Papers and Classification System;
and Types and Forms of Documents

Arrangement of the Papers and Classification System

The system of arrangement of the Porter Papers follows the grouping in which they had been maintained by the Porter family for many years. This is basically a subject classification or grouping into thirty-eight subject or "form" classes, with chronological arrangement, with certain exceptions, within each class. When the Historical Society acquired the papers in the early 1940's, it was decided to retain this grouping, to adopt a symbol for each class, and to number the documents serially within each class, marking these symbols in pencil on the upper right corner on the documents. Two card catalogs, an Author Catalog and a Subject Catalog, were prepared keyed to this notation system; and the documents have been so used and cited for many years. The documents have been filmed in the same order in this microfilm publication.

		Document Numbers
Roll 1	Card Catalogs Author Catalog Subject Catalog	
Roll 2	War of 1812	A-1 - A-320

		Document Numbers
Roll 3	War of 1812 (cont.)	A-321 - A-641
Roll 4	War of 1812 (concl.) Indian Affairs Early Buffalo and Black Rock	A-642 - A-783-2 B-1 - B-72 C-1 - C-46
Roll 5	Early Buffalo and Black Rock (concl.) Black Rock Harbor	C-47 - C-289-2 D-1 - D-38
Roll 6	Black Rock Harbor (concl.) Boundary Survey	D-39 - D-271 E-1 - E-79
Roll 7A	Boundary Survey (cont.)	E-80 - E-163-14
Roll 7B	Boundary Survey (concl.)	E-164 - E-353
Roll 8	Secretary of War Phelps-Gorham Purchase (Oliver Phelps) Holland Land Company Slave Extraditions Maps Steamboats	F-1 - F-39 G-1 - G-5 H-1 - H-36 I-1 - I-17 J-1 - J-7 K-1 - K-142
Roll 9	Steamboats (concl.) Railroads Black Rock Ferry Williamsville Fort Niagara Postmarks Benjamin Rathbun Niagara Falls	K-143 - K-228 L-1 - L-91 M-1 - M-7 N-1 - N-4 O-1 - O-12 P-1 - P-17 R-1 - R-39 S-1 - S-25
Roll 10	Niagara Falls (concl.) Niagara Falls Water Power Niagara Falls Ferry Canadian Rebellion (Patriot War, Upper Canada Rebellion) Ship Canal Around Niagara Falls Grand Island Autographs Pension and Bounty Papers Provision Contracts Mail Routes Indian Rations Pamphlets Niagara River	S-26 - S-61 T-1 - T-12 U-1 - U-9 V-1 - V-13 W-1 - W-8 X-1 - X-5 Y-1 - Y-60 Z-1 - Z-17 AA-1 - AA-22 BB-1 - BB-6 CC-1 - CC-9 DD-1 - DD-12 EE-1 - EE-35
Roll 11	Miscellaneous Personal Manuscripts Newspapers Maps	FF-1 - FF-63 GG-1 - GG-23 HH-1 - HH-27 JJ-1 - JJ-7 KK-1 - KK-34

		Document Numbers
Roll 12	Pictures	LL-1 - LL-58
	Miscellaneous	MM-1 - MM-15
	Clay-Porter Correspondence	No symbol - arranged chronologically originals, Clay to Porter (121 letters); drafts, Porter to Clay (64 letters).

It perhaps should be made clear that the Historical Society at the present time neither practices nor recommends the subject classification of manuscripts. The Porter Collection is, in fact, the only collection in its custody that was ever handled so rigorously in this fashion, to include even a notation system. The Society's current practice, for those who may be interested, is to determine the natural series as the describable item and then prepare typescript inventories, in which the series is the unit of description. Subject content is then brought out in the series notes, and sometimes in an index to the inventory. Such a product is easily publishable.

The classification system of the Porter Papers presents all the classic problems that subject classification of manuscripts imposes. It is impossible to devise a scheme of exhaustive and mutually exclusive classes, with the result that related documents are dispersed. The multiplicity of classes into which the Porter Papers were divided undoubtedly reflects the cataloger's attempt to indicate the diversity of Peter B. Porter's interests and activities, but it makes the careful scanning of several classes essential for many areas of research. The system is viable here by virtue of the relatively small size of the collection and the detailed card catalogs to it, which are described below and which make it possible for the user of the microfilm first to scan all the entries in the Subject Catalog under the subject or subjects of his interest, note the classification numbers, and then proceed to the documents. The user is strongly advised to scan the Subject Catalog (reproduced on Roll 1) rather liberally under all the classes, including the "form" classes (explained below) that may be pertinent to his investigation. And beyond that, he is advised to scan the pertinent series of documents themselves rather liberally. The Author Catalog, of course, which is also reproduced on Roll 1, provides the key for the user approaching the collection with specific correspondents chiefly in mind.

The classification system of the Porter Papers is further complicated by the fact that the papers of two men with a gap of a generation between them are commingled and that Peter A. Porter's papers include some general historical materials simply collected by him. With regard to Peter B. Porter's papers, the subject classification results in distributing his correspondence for a given period among several classes. There is, for example, no class as such for his important services as Congressman, and these materials appear throughout the whole collection. Although there is a class "Secretary of War" (F), this is not exhaustive, and other documents addressed to him in that capacity are to be found in other classes. The best general statement that can be made is that in classes the inclusive dates of which include the periods of Porter's career as Congressman or Secretary of War, letters addressed to him in that capacity are frequently included.

The system of subject classification makes the inclusive dates of a class not as helpful as they would be were it a natural series, since the papers added by Peter A. Porter sometimes contain earlier or later materials collected by him.

The overlapping nature is compounded by the fact that eight of the classes are "form" rather than subject classes. The "form" classes are "Maps" (2 classes, J. and KK), "Postmarks" (P), "Autographs" (Y), "Pamphlets" (DD), "Manuscripts" (HH), "Newspaper Articles" (JJ), and "Pictures" (LL). The nature of most of these classes is self evident, but it must be explained that the "Postmarks" and "Autographs" classes were set up to contain, respectively, documents of particular philatelic or obvious autographic value, in preference to their subject value; and that the "Manuscripts" class was set up chiefly to contain the drafts and texts of historical essays written by Peter A. Porter.

Three other classes require special mention. There are two "Miscellaneous" classes (FF and MM) and one "Personal" class (GG). The FF class contains valuable documents relating to a wide variety of subjects of political, economic, and social significance, as indicated on the roll note below, and also a few personal items. The bulk of the personal papers, however, is in the "Personal" class (GG). The second "Miscellaneous" class (MM) reflects chiefly the activities of Peter A. Porter in Niagara Falls, New York, and the activities of the Porter family as proprietors of Goat Island at the Falls.

So much for problems resulting from the classification system. Standard archival practices have been followed in other matters. Enclosures immediately follow their covering letter, but enclosures are frequently missing from the collection. Undated items appear at the end of a class. Items dated by year only, appear at the end of the year within the class.

Types and Forms of Documents

The kinds of documents in the Porter collection comprise correspondence (letters received and copies of letters sent), requisitions, invoices, receipts, and other kinds of materials indicated in the list of classes and roll notes. The correspondence is the most valuable component of the collection. This includes many letters received by Peter B. Porter, and a substantial number of copies of letters sent by him. These latter are designated "copy" on the catalog cards; they are usually rough drafts, in his own hand, which he kept apparently in lieu of letterbooks. The letters received include some letters received by Augustus Porter and presumably handed by him to his brother. In some instances the date given on the catalog for a document is the date of the original, though the item is a later copy that was acquired by Peter A. Porter.

Each item bears the classification number, in pencil in the upper right corner, which is the key to its location. Some of the documents

bear other numbers and markings as well, from earlier filing systems, but these no longer apply. At the time it was acquired, the collection was called the "Peter A. Porter Collection," and this designation was hand-stamped on most of the documents and also appears on most of the catalog cards.

The Card Catalogs (Author and Subject)

The Author Catalog

At the time the documents were classified, two card catalogs were prepared to the collection. They are reproduced on Roll 1 of the microfilm. These catalogs require some explanation. The first is the Author Catalog, arranged alphabetically by author and thereunder chronologically. Frequently several items are "carded" on one card. A brief abstract is given, indicating the chief subject of the document. The classification symbol is given at the end of the last line of the entry for the item, permitting the user of the microfilm to note the document numbers he wishes to consult on the appropriate roll of the film. A user wishing to determine if the collection includes any letters written by a given individual can quickly ascertain, by consultation of the Author Catalog, whether such exist in the collection.

As indicated, entries in the Author Catalog are arranged alphabetically, and then chronologically under each author. The Catalog has not been perfected, and the style of name is not always consistent, but whether full first name or initial only has been used, the cards for the same author have been interfiled. The chronological arrangement under each author is occasionally imprecise, since the practice of "carding" several documents on one card sometimes precluded filing in its proper place a card prepared later. In such instances, the card prepared later follows as closely as possible to its normal place. The numerals in the upper right corner of some of the Author Catalog cards have no significance and have been canceled with a slash (/).

Several other characteristics of the Author Catalog should be noted. It consists chiefly of names of persons, rather than corporate entries (official agencies or private organizations). A few United States and New York State official entries are included, however. There are also a few title entries, for items such as maps and pictures where authorship is difficult to attribute and the item is entered under the subject catchword in the title.

Note: The author cards for the important Clay-Porter series appear at the end of the Author Catalog. These represent the personal letters

between the two men. A few official letters between them are represented by cards in their normal place in the Author Catalog.

The Subject Catalog

The second catalog is the Subject Catalog, in which cards duplicating the entries in the Author Catalog are grouped by class, in the same sequence in which the documents themselves are filed. Within each class, with certain exceptions noted below, the arrangement is basically chronological, so that the Subject Catalog approximates a calendar of each of the classes. The chronology, however, is frequently imperfect, and again the reader is advised to scan all the cards for any class in which he is interested. Frequently some earlier documents, apparently processed late in the cataloging operation, appear near the end of a class. It is suggested also that all users consult the cards for the "form" series for "Postmarks" (P) and "Autographs" (Y), since the abstract on the card is the only clue to subject; and also the cards for the "Miscellaneous" class (FF) and the "Personal" class (GG), both of which contain materials on a wide variety of subjects.

Like the Author Catalog, the Subject Catalog contains the classification number of each item at the end of the entry, permitting the user to proceed from the catalog to the pertinent rolls of the microfilm for the documents themselves. The user should ignore the number that appears in the upper right corner of the catalog cards. These numbers are only for internal control of the card catalog.

Exceptions to the basic chronological arrangement within the class occur in "Postmarks" (P), where arrangement is alphabetical by place (with "Steamboat" postmarks at end); and "Autographs" (Y), where arrangement is alphabetical by author.

In certain classes the chronological arrangement is conspicuously poor: "Miscellaneous" (FF); "Pictures" (LL); and "Miscellaneous" (MM).

In the class for "Pension and Bounty Papers" (Z), where the chronology is also weak, it should be noted the entry word on the card is the name of the veteran involved, not the correspondent, unless they are the same. (In the Author Catalog, the entry is the name of the correspondent.)

In the class for "Manuscripts" (HH), comprising chiefly drafts of historical studies by Peter A. Porter, it should be noted the entry word on the card is the subject, e. g., "War of 1812" or "Niagara River," etc., and there is no real system of arrangement.

Content of the Collection

The content of the Porter Collection is wide and varied, as indicated in the list of subject classes.

For Peter B. Porter, they reflect his public service at the Federal level, as Congressman, major general in the War of 1812, United States Commissioner under the 6th and 7th articles of the Treaty of Ghent, and Secretary of War. The two largest classes are those for the War of 1812 and for the Boundary Commission. The Porter-Clay correspondence, and some papers in other series, are an important source for national and state political history (Whig Party). Papers reflecting his activities as Congressman are distributed among several classes, as explained above; and papers reflecting his activities as Secretary of War appear not only in the small Secretary of War class, but in several other classes as well. Materials relating to the War of 1812 will also be found in classes other than the "War of 1812" class.

Papers reflecting his public service as clerk of Ontario County and as a New York State official (commissioner of inland navigation, secretary of state, and regent of the University of the State) are relatively few and are chiefly routine letters of appointment and resignation, and certificates of election.

His papers are also a rich source for the regional history of Western New York and the Niagara Frontier. Land development matters are illuminated in the "Holland Land Company" and "Benjamin Rathbun" classes, the latter relating to proposed development of property in Niagara Falls, New York. For studies of the economic development of the area, the relationships between and among the classes "Early Buffalo and Black Rock," "Black Rock Harbor," "Steamboats," and "Railroads" are particularly close; and the user exploring the transportation and industrial history of the area will wish to scan the Subject Catalog for all these classes, as well as the "Miscellaneous" class (FF), which contains some Erie Canal and other New York State canals materials.

The papers of Peter A. Porter in the collection comprise only a small part of it. They are chiefly valuable in reflecting his activities in Niagara Falls, New York, and his significant activities as a collector and author in the field of Western New York history.

Provenance of the Collection

The Porter Collection was acquired by the Buffalo Historical Society by purchase from the Porter Estate in 1942. It was at that time designated the "Peter A. Porter Collection" in recognition of the fact the papers had

been organized by him and included his own papers. The collection also includes other items presented at various times by the Porter family. Reproduced in the microfilm are also six copies of documents from the A. Conger Goodyear War of 1812 Collection, presented to the Historical Society in 1952.

Related Materials in Other Collections and in Published Sources

Unpublished Sources

The Buffalo and Erie County Historical Society has in its custody, on indefinite loan from the Old Fort Niagara Association, Youngstown, New York, a valuable collection (approximately 1,800 pieces) of papers of Augustus Porter, older brother of Peter B. Porter. Given the very close association of the brothers in many of their activities, the materials in the two collections are equally closely related. Other collections in the Historical Society containing some Peter B. Porter letters are the Black Rock Harbor Papers (Black Rock Harbor Company), the Absalom Bull Papers (1797?-1866), and the Joseph Ellicott (1760-1826) letterbooks (Holland Land Company). The Historical Society has a manuscript report of the British commissioners under the 7th article of the Treaty of Ghent, and minutes of the Proceedings of the Commissioners, kept by Donald Fraser, secretary, 1824-27.

The Niagara County Historical Society in Lockport, New York, has on loan a small collection of papers of Augustus Porter, including journals, daybooks, and waste books representing trading activities at Canandaigua as early as 1802; materials relating to trading activities in supplying frontier posts as far west as Detroit, Fort Wayne, and Chicago (Fort Dearborn), ca. 1807-11; and copies of letters sent (ca. 1844-64) by Augustus Seymour Porter (1798-1878), United States Senator (26th-28th Congress, 1840-45) from Michigan and earlier recorder (1830) and mayor (1838) of Detroit. The collection in Lockport includes a few Peter B. Porter items.

The National Archives in Washington has the official records of and relating to Peter B. Porter's activities and services at the Federal level, both legislative (the records of the House of Representatives) and executive (State and War Departments). It has reproduced on microfilm several series of records the pertinent years of which would contain materials relating to Porter. For a complete catalog of these microfilm publications see the List of National Archives Microfilm Publications (1966). The documentation in the published Diary of Joseph Delafield, American Agent of the Boundary Commission, (see below, under published sources) cites many records of the State Department in the National Archives.

Peter B. Porter materials in other repositories would include (this listing is by no means exhaustive) the Phelps-Gorham Papers in the New York State

Library in Albany, mostly pre-1800; the DeWitt Clinton Papers in the Columbia University Library; a few papers in the New-York Historical Society; the Jasper Parrish Papers in the Vassar College Library (muster rolls of warriors of the Six Nations under Porter's command in the War of 1812); a few items in the Ebenezer Mix Papers in the Holland Land Office Museum in Batavia, New York. The Henry Clay Papers in the Library of Congress in Washington contain important Porter letters.

Published Sources

Official records of and relating to Peter B. Porter will be found in the standard official documentary publications (Annals of Congress; American State Papers). Porter letters in published sources include Colton's Private Correspondence of Henry Clay (New York, 1855), and the new edition of the Clay Papers now in progress, edited by James F. Hopkins and published by the University of Kentucky Press (Lexington, 1959-). E. A. Cruikshank's Documentary History of the Campaign upon the Niagara Frontier in 1812-1814 edited for the Lundy's Lane Historical Society (Welland, Ontario, 1896-1899?) contains the texts of many Porter letters. John Bassett Moore, History and Digest of the International Arbitrations to which the United States Has Been a Party, Vol. VI (Washington, 1898; also published as 53rd Cong., 2d seas., H. Misc. Doc. 212. Serial 3267) reproduces in reduced scale many maps used in working out the boundaries under the 6th and 7th articles of the Treaty of Ghent. The Historical Society has a set of these published maps in its iconographic collection.

A published source of particular importance is Joseph Delafield (1790-1875), The Unfortified Boundary; a Diary of the First Survey of the Canadian Boundary Line from St. Regis to the Lake of the Woods, by Major Joseph Delafield, American Agent under Articles VI and VII of the Treaty of Ghent, from the Original Manuscript Recently Discovered, edited by Robert McElroy and Thomas Riggs (New York, privately printed, 1943). This is a meticulously edited volume, and its documentation provides a bibliography of United States official published sources (House and Senate Documents and Reports and the like) as well as numerous citations to the unpublished documents in the National Archives. The manuscript diary, with an autobiography and other Delafield materials, remains in the possession of the Delafield Family Association. The published Diary is still in print and inquiries concerning it may be addressed to Mr. John White Delafield, Suite 200, 342 Madison Avenue, New York City.

The Microfilm

Outline of Classes and Rolls

Roll 1 Card Catalogs
 Author Catalog
 Subject Catalog

Document Numbers

Document Numbers

John Henry Papers, Mar. 9, 1812; invoices for goods and services, provision returns, receipts for funds, morning reports, military orders, broadsides. All aspects of campaign of 1812 on the Niagara Frontier, including appointments and recruiting and payment of Indians. Subsequent rolls include also correspondence with war-time associates in later years and several items as Secretary of War.

Roll 2	War of 1812	A-1 - A-320
Roll 3	War of 1812 (cont.)	A-321 - A-641
Roll 4	War of 1812 (concl.) Indian Affairs Early Buffalo and Black Rock	A-642 - A-783-2 B-1 - B-72 C-1 - C-46
Roll 5	Early Buffalo and Black Rock (concl.) Black Rock Harbor	C-47 - C-289-2 D-1 - D-38
Roll 6	Black Rock Harbor (concl.) Boundary Survey	D-39 - D-271 E-1 - E-79
Roll 7	Boundary Survey (concl.)	E-80 - E-353
Roll 7A	Boundary Survey (cont.)	E-80 - E-163-14
Roll 7B	Boundary Survey (concl.)	E-164 - E-353
Roll 8	Secretary of War Phelps-Gorham Purchase (Oliver Phelps) Holland Land Company Slave Extraditions Maps Steamboats	F-1 - F-39 G-1 - G-5 H-1 - H-36 I-1 - I-17 J-1 - J-7 K-1 - K-142
Roll 9	Steamboats (concl.) Railroads Black Rock Ferry Williamsville Fort Niagara Postmarks Benjamin Rathbun Niagara Falls	K-143 - K-228 L-1 - L-91 M-1 - M-7 N-1 - N-4 O-1 - O-12 P-1 - P-17 R-1 - R-39 S-1 - S-25
Roll 10	Niagara Falls (concl.) Niagara Falls Water Power Niagara Falls Ferry Canadian Rebellion (Patriot War, Upper Canada Rebellion) Ship Canal Around Niagara Falls Grand Island Autographs Pension and Bounty Papers Provision Contracts Mail Routes Indian Rations Pamphlets Niagara River	S-26 - S-61 T-1 - T-12 U-1 - U-9 V-1 - V-13 W-1 - W-8 X-1 - X-5 Y-1 - Y-60 Z-1 - Z-17 AA-1 - AA-22 BB-1 - BB-6 CC-1 - CC-9 DD-1 - DD-12 EE-1 - EE-35

		Document Numbers
Roll 11	Miscellaneous	FF-1 - FF-63
	Personal	GG-1 - GG-23
	Manuscripts	HH-1 - HH-27
	Newspapers	JJ-1 - JJ-7
	Maps	KK-1 - KK-34
Roll 12	Pictures	LL-1 - LL-58
	Miscellaneous	MM-1 - MM-15
	Clay-Porter Correspondence	No symbol - arranged chronologically
		originals, Clay to Porter (121 letters); drafts, Porter to Clay (64 letters).

Mechanics of Filming

The documents have been filmed with no editorial targeting, such information being supplied so far as possible in the general introduction and roll notes. All pages with any writing on them have been filmed; but pages that bear no matter other than the hand-stamped "Peter A. Porter Collection" and/or the document symbol have not been filmed. Many of the documents are badly foxed, and others have some bleed-through. Others are obviously mutilated. In instances where a hole in a document would permit the writing on an underlying page to show through, a sheet of plain white paper has been inserted to prevent this. A few published items, chiefly oversize maps, have not been reproduced; this is noted on the Catalog cards.

It is suggested the conventional form be used in citing documents reproduced in this microfilm, but including the document number.

Roll Notes

Roll 1: The Catalogs.
 Author Catalog
 Subject Catalog

The Catalogs have been explained earlier in this pamphlet. In micro-filming the Author Catalog, the guide card beginning each letter of the alphabet has been photographed on a separate frame. Similarly in the Subject Catalog, where the guide card beginning each class has been photographed on a separate frame.

Roll 2: War of 1812. Docs. no. A-1 - A-320. Jan. 30, 1812 - April 1814.

Types of documents: Chiefly letters received, with some copies of letters sent, including as Congressman; minutes of meetings of House Committee on Foreign Relations, of which Porter was chairman, Feb. 8 and 11, Feb. 20 (?) regarding

John Henry Papers, Mar. 9, 1812; invoices for goods and services, provision returns, receipts for funds, morning reports, military orders, broadsides. All aspects of campaign of 1814 on the Niagara Frontier, including appointments and recruiting and payment of Indians. Subsequent rolls include also correspondence with war-time associates in later years and several items as Secretary of War.

Roll 3: War of 1812 (cont.). Docs. no. A-321 - A-641. May 2, 1814 - Dec. 28, 1822.

Roll 4: War of 1812 (concl.) Docs. no. A-642 - A-783-1. Dec. 30, 1811 - Nov. 2, 1823.

Indian Affairs. Docs. no. B-1 - B-72. May 19, 1777 - Mar. 9, 1847.

Types of documents: Chiefly correspondence (letters received, with some drafts of letters by), including letters received as Member of Congress and Secretary of War. Chiefly regarding reservations and treaties. Includes a few early documents collected by Peter A. Porter. Letter by T. L. Ogden (1820) regarding appointment of Eleazer Williams as superintendent of schools among the Oneidas and Senecas.

Early Buffalo and Black Rock. Docs. no. C-1 - C-46. 1803 - Dec. 20, 1821.

Types of documents: Chiefly correspondence (letters received, including as Congressman and Secretary of War, originals of some sent). Surveyor's field notes. Stock certificate. Subjects include real estate, banking, local politics, railroads, reflecting Porter's manifold activities in Western New York.

Roll 5: Early Buffalo and Black Rock (concl.). Docs. no. C-47 - C-289-2. May 20, 1816 - May 14, 1857.

Includes a few documents of 1890's relating to Porter Square.

Black Rock Harbor. Docs. no. D-1 - D-38. Nov. 4, 1821 - Jan. 28, 1828.

Types of documents: Chiefly correspondence, including as Secretary of War. Invoices for goods and services, receipts. Rivalry between Buffalo and Black Rock for western terminus of Erie Canal. Black Rock Harbor Company. Later work on harbor in 1830's, when Porter had contracts with the Corps of Engineers. Economic development of area.

Roll 6: Black Rock Harbor (concl.). Docs. no. D-39 - D-271. June 16, 1821 - Jan. 30, 1844.

Boundary Survey. Docs. no. E-1 - E-79. Sept. 28, 1815 - Aug. 30, 1819.

Types of documents: Chiefly correspondence, including as Secretary of War.

The 6th and 7th articles of the Treaty of Ghent provided for establishment of a joint mixed commission to determine the international boundary from the St. Lawrence River to the Lake of the Woods. Porter was appointed American Commissioner. Much correspondence with Maj. Joseph Delsfield, the American Agent, and other persons engaged in this undertaking. Later correspondence relates to claims of American Party for compensation for their services. For a narrative of the Boundary Commission's work to 1822, under the 6th article of the Treaty, see William A. Bird, "Reminiscences of the Boundary Survey between the United States and British Provinces" (Buffalo Historical Society Publications, Vol. 2, 1896). Members of the American and British parties were:

The American Party

Peter B. Porter, Commissioner
 Donald Fraser, Secretary
 Samuel Hawkins, Agent
 Joseph Delafield, Agent
 succeeded Hawkins in 1819
 Richard Delafield, Draftsman
 David P. Adams, Surveyor
 William A. Bird, Asst. Surveyor
 James Ferguson, Asst. Surveyor
 succeeded Bird in 1822

The British Party

John Oglevie, Commissioner
 Anthony Barclay, Commissioner
 succeeded Oglevie in 1819
 John Hale, Agent
 David Thompson, Surveyor
 Dr. John Bixby, Asst. Surveyor
 Alexander Stevenson, Asst. Surveyor

Roll 7: Boundary Survey (concl.). Docs. no. E-80 - E-353. Jan. 16, 1816 - Aug. 15, 1842.

Roll 8: Secretary of War. Docs. no. F-1 - F-39. May 26, 1828 - Mar. 24 (?), 1829.

Types of documents: Correspondence (letters received). Congratulatory letters, applications for appointment, some political comment. This class is not exhaustive; other documents of and relating to Porter's service as Secretary of War are in other classes.

Phelps-Gorham Purchase. Docs. no. G-1 - G-5. Jan. 15, 1811 - July 18, 1831.

Type of documents: Letters received relating to Oliver Phelps. Last item relates to Phelps-Gorham purchase.

Holland Land Company. Docs. no. H-1 - H-36. June 16, 1798 - Oct. 19, 1840.

Types of documents: Correspondence, affidavits, deed. Land purchases by Peter B. Porter and Augustus Porter. Problems of settlers and their grievances as manifested by the Buffalo and Lockport conventions. Efforts to remedy problems.

Slave Extraditions. Docs. no. I-1 - I-17. May 21, 1821 - Nov. 13, 1837.

Types of documents: Correspondence, grand jury indictments, warrants, and requests for extradition. Porter's views on slavery, favoring emancipation and colonization. Concerns Negro slaves inherited by Letitia Breckenridge Grayson Porter, whom she planned to free. Opinion of John B. Robinson, Attorney General of Upper Canada, May 16, 1821, against extradition.

Maps. Docs. no. J-1 - J-7. 1835, 1908.

Published oversize maps not reproduced in this microfilm. Six are profiles of survey for ship canal around Niagara Falls, made under direction of Capt. W. G. Williams, Corps of Topographical Engineers, 1835. The seventh is map by New York State Engineer, "Line of Barge Canal...also Line of Present Erie, Champlain and Oswego Canals," 1908.

Steamboats. Docs. no. K-1 - K-142. July 17, 1810 - Apr. 11, 1844.

Types of documents: Correspondence, including as Secretary of War, articles of agreement, stock certificates, invoices, shipping receipts, accounts (books), statements of earnings and wages paid, proxies, passenger lists (Steamboat General Porter, 1838), deck plans (possibly of the General Porter). Steamboat development as corollary to operations of Porter, Barton & Company. Firm names involved prominently include Niagara River Steamboat Company, Union Line Steamboat Company of Lake Erie. Other firms and partnerships involved include Atwater & Rudin; Banta, Bidwell & Co.; Bissell & Gardner; Chase, Sterling & Co.; J. A. Cowing & Co.; H. Gates & Co.; Gibson, Gray & Co.; Gibson, Grayson & Co.; Gillespie, Joyce & Co.; Grand Island Co.; Gregory & Kniffen, Grosvenor & Miller; Harkness & Vorhees; D. Hibbard & Co.; Hollister & Boalt; Hunter, Palmer & Co.; Hutchinson, Campbell & Co.; Livingston & Cutting; J. Mathew & Co.; E. Norton & Co.; Patterson Bros.; Peckham & Co.; Porter, Barton & Co.; Rumsey & Howard; Russell & Hawes; J. & G. H. Schoenberger; Sill, Thompson & Co.; Smith & Macy; Townsend, Barton & Thompson; Townsend, Bronson & Co.; Walbridge & Hayden; Winslow, Spencer & Co. Ship names involved include Amelia (schooner), Cataract (canal boat), Chancellor Livingston, Daniel Webster (steamboat), Diana (schooner), Enterprise, Erie (sloop), General Porter (steamboat), Henry Clay (steamboat), Marie Antoinette (schooner), Michigan (conversion to steamboat), New York (steamboat), Niagara (steamboat), Oliver Ellsworth (steamboat), Ontario (schooner), Owanungah (schooner), Penn, Pioneer, Star (steamboat), Superior (schooner), Surprise (steamboat), William Peacock. The materials are most voluminous for the General Porter and the Niagara.

Roll 9: Steamboats (concl.). Docs. no. K-143 - K-228. Feb. 12, 1819 - March 1842.

Railroads. Docs. no. L-1 - L-91. Nov. 10, 1828 - Mar. 26, 1850.

Types of documents: Correspondence, including as Secretary of War, articles of association, stock certificates, stock assignments, stock transfers, petitions, cash accounts. Formation of Black Rock Land Railroad Company and the Buffalo and Niagara Falls Railroad. Land acquisition, purchase of materials, financial problems.

Black Rock Ferry. Docs. no. M-1 - M-7. May 21, 1812 - Feb. 4, 1826.

Type of documents: Correspondence. Lease of the ferry operation between Black Rock and Canada and proposed competition. Last item relates to War of 1812.

Williamsville. Docs. no. N-1 - N-4. Dec. 1, 1814 - Sept. 29, 1823.

Type of documents: Correspondence. Proposal to place army deserters at Williamsville (1814); Oziel Smith claim against United States (1820); recommendation for postmaster.

Fort Niagara. Docs. O-1 - O-12. May 21, 1821 - Aug. 11, 1896.

Types of documents: Correspondence, including letters received as Secretary of War; typescripts (4) of later documents relating to the fire in 1850, medical history, and speech at Fort's centennial, 1896, by Chief Elias Johnson.

Postmarks. Docs. no. P-1 - P-17. Mar. 11, 1816 - Feb. 20, 1838.

Type of documents: Letters received, including as Secretary of War. Letters of postmark interest, arranged alphabetically by name of place, with "Steamboat" postmarks at end (ships' names not shown). Varied subject matter, largely personal and business, but some political. For abstract indicating chief subject of each letter, see the Catalogs.

Benjamin Rathbun. Docs. no. R-1 - R-39. Feb. 19, 1835 - July 1842.

Types of documents: Chiefly correspondence, including many letters from Augustus Porter to Peter B. Porter and several from Rathbun; mortgages, bonds, list of judgments against Rathbun. Lands purchased on speculation by Rathbun, a real estate developer and building contractor on grand scale, whose business empire collapsed in 1836. Rathbun imprisoned for forgery. His speculations involved Niagara Falls lands purchased from the Porters.

Niagara Falls. Docs. no. S-1 - S-25. Nov. 6, 1816 - Sept. 9, 1839.

Types of documents: Correspondence, letters of patent, mortgages, deeds, agreement between Augustus Porter and heirs of Peter B. Porter, title searches, leases. Earlier materials relate to business operations and properties owned

by them at Niagara Falls. Later items relate to land subdivisions and legal actions. Goat Island. Includes letter from Oliver Phelps, Jr. (1857) regarding desire of John Mix Stanley, the noted painter of the American Indian, to sell the Porters a half-interest in his paintings.

Roll 10: Niagara Falls (concl.). Docs. no. S-26 - S-61. June 27, 1814 -
Oct. 1, 1916.

Niagara Falls Water Power. Docs. no. T-1 - T-12. Jan. 31, 1821 -
June 29, 1917.

Types of documents: Correspondence, deeds, agreements, surveys. Water power and water rights at the Falls. Upper and lower race. Report regarding a hydraulic canal, 1866. Upper race measurements, 1871.

Niagara Falls Ferry. Docs. no. U-1 - U-9. May 3, 1832 - Jan. 16,
1844.

Types of documents: Correspondence, draft petitions to state legislature; draft legislation. Permission to Peter B. Porter and Augustus Porter to operate a ferry service between Niagara Falls and Canada. Possible competition. Expenditures for maintenance.

Canadian Rebellion (Patriot War). Docs. no. V-1 - V-13. Dec. 8, 1837 -
Apr. 3, 1841.

Types of documents: Correspondence (letters received), broadside. Impact on Western New York of Patriot War, led in Upper Canada by William Mackenzie. Caroline Affair. Includes letters from Daniel Webster, William H. Seward regarding Anglo-American relations.

Ship Canal Around Niagara Falls. Docs. no. W-1 - W-3. Jan. 24, 1826 -
Nov. 15, 1836.

Types of documents: Correspondence, memorial to state legislature, arguments for constitutionality of Federal aid for such a project; prospectus. Proposed lateral canal from "Tonewanta" to Niagara Falls. Efforts of Oswego committee. Later printed prospectus by Peter A. Porter outlining history of canal idea.

Grand Island. Docs. no. X-1 - X-5. Mar. 22, 1824 - Sept. 14, 1839.

Types of documents: Correspondence; articles of agreement, Gibson, Grayson & Company for boiler and steam engine. Lease of dock owned by East Boston Timber Company. Preservation of cornerstone for the proposed city of Ararat, a refuge for the Jews.

Autographs. Docs. no. Y-1 - Y-60. Feb. 4, 1811 - Mar. 31, 1814.

Type of documents: Letters received, including as Congressman and Secretary of War. Letters of obvious autographic value, but also of significant content. Arranged alphabetically by name of writer. Personal, important political, and business matters. For abstract indicating chief subject of each letter, see the Catalogs. Several letters from William Leete Stone, journalist and historian (early advocate of a New York State archival program), seeking information concerning Red Jacket and Joseph Brant for his biographies of them. Correspondents are: John Quincy Adams, John Jacob Astor, Gen. John P. Boyd, Gen. Jacob Brown, John C. Calhoun, Lewis Cass, DeWitt Clinton, Samuel L. Conant, Gen. Henry Dearborn, Simson DeWitt, Jesse D. Elliott, David E. Evans, Elwood Evans, Oliver Forward, Gen. Edward P. Gaines, Gen. Charles Gratiot, Ralph W. Haskins, William L. Marcy, Gen. George McClure, Joel R. Poinsett, John Rodgers, William H. Seward, William Shelton, A. Thomas Smith, Gen. Samuel Smith, Samuel S. Southard, Elbridge Gerry Spaulding, William L. Stone, Henry R. Storrs, Daniel D. Tompkins, Allen Trimble, Martin Van Buren, and Daniel Webster.

Pension and Bounty Papers. Docs. no. Z-1 - Z-17. Oct. 28, 1791 -
Dec. 30, 1838.

Types of documents: Letters received, including as Congressman and Secretary of War; copy of pension act; petition. Revolutionary War and War of 1812. Includes "Petition of French Soldiers, 1810," addressed to the Congress and signed by William Roon and 139 others, requesting bounty lands for services in French and Indian War, 1754-63; letter from T. Ringgold regarding President James Monroe's Revolutionary War service and pension claim.

Provision Contracts. Docs. no. AA-1 - AA-22. Feb. 18, 1809 -
Nov. 22, 1828.

Types of documents: Letters received, including as Congressman; decision and award. Chiefly relating to accounts of Birdseye Norton, Nathaniel Norton, Augustus Porter, and Peter B. Porter with Oliver Phelps under contracts to furnish provisions to the United States troops, dated Aug. 4, 1802, May 2, 1803, and May 21, 1804. Many letters from D. Beard to Porter concerning provisions furnished to Detroit, Fort Wayne, and Chicago. Col. George Croghan to be in Washington to check abstracts. Chronology is 1809-12; 1815-28.

Mail Routes. Docs. no. BB-1 - BB-6. Jan. 11, 1811 - Nov. 5, 1828.

Type of documents: Letters received, including as Congressman and Secretary of War. Postmaster appointments and requests for contracts for carrying mails in New York State (especially Western New York), Erie, Pennsylvania, and Michigan Territory.

Indian Rations. Docs. no. CC-1 - CC-9. Oct. 1, 1809 - June 30, 1815.

Types of documents: Abstracts of provisions and provision returns for supplies given to the Indians at Buffalo Creek, Black Rock, and Lewiston. Signed by Erastus Granger, Indian agent; also by Jasper Parrish, Horatio Jones. Some military items.

Pamphlets. Docs. no. DD-1 - DD-12. Apr. 16, 1814 - Aug. 1939.

Types of materials: Pamphlets, memorials, prospectuses, circular letters. Union Canal Company of Pennsylvania; Bank of Rochester; Oswego Canal; Albany citizens' appeal for relief of Greek sufferers; National Advocate prospectus; Jacob B. Clarke memorial regarding mulberry tree and silk manufacture; memorial of Gen. Winfield Scott protesting promotion of General Macomb; circular letter, Historical Society of Michigan; United States Telegraph prospectus; circular letter by Conservative Convention urging defeat of Loco Foco Party, 1832; circular letter by Democratic-Republican Party regarding Syracuse Convention, 1839.

Niagara River. Docs. no. EE-1 - EE-35. Jan. 3, 1811 - Aug. 30, 1919.

Types of documents: Letters received (1811-37), including as Congressman and Secretary of War; later letters, beginning ca. 1893, received by Peter A. Porter. Customs houses on Niagara River. Smuggling. Cayuga Island. Steamboat United Kingdom. Later documents: Actual and proposed bridge companies, including Niagara River Bridge and Tunnel Company, Carriage Bridge Company, Whirlpool Bridge Company.

Roll 11: Miscellaneous. Docs. no. FF-1 - FF-63. May 20, 1801 - Feb. 8, 1902.

Types of documents: Correspondence, including letters received as Congressman and Secretary of War; memorandum regarding internal improvements (as Congressman). Wide variety of subjects, economic, political, personal. Bank of the United States; Erie Canal (as a Commissioner of Inland Navigation, New York State); Oswego Canal; Indian Affairs in Red River area; Lake Ontario; Lewiston, New York; Free Masonry; William Morgan Affair; Michigan Territory: education in New York State; United States Army; West Point; Welland Canal; politics (1824, 1827, 1834, 1841). Includes letter from George Catlin seeking professorship at West Point or in some Indian agency, and from Secretary of War Lamont opposing free access to rolls and records of Civil War and other armies (1895). Chronological arrangement is poor.

Personal. Docs. no. GG-1 - GG-23. 1799 - Jan. 4, 1853.

Types of documents: Correspondence, chiefly letters received, including as Congressman and Secretary of War; resolution of New York State Legislature appointing Porter a Commissioner of Inland Navigation (1810); commissions to other State and Federal offices; certificates of election and appointment; condolence letter; accounts.

Manuscripts. Docs. no. HH-1 - HH-27. 1824-1912.

Types of documents: Chiefly preliminary drafts in various stages of completion of historical essays by Peter A. Porter; speech by Red Jacket in reply to sermon by the Rev. John Breckenridge; Lord's Prayer in Seneca language; letter by Mordecai M. Noah, Aug. 17, 1824, concerning plans for a proposed city of Ararat on Grand Island as a refuge for the Jews; Sir William Johnson's coat of arms; reprint of Louise Phelps Kellogg's "A Study of the Possible Identification of Marquette's Map" (Wisconsin State Historical Society Proceedings, 1906); title page of galleys of bibliography of editions of Father Louis Hennepin. Subjects treated in Porter's notes and drafts include Battle of Lake Erie, Fort George and Fort Niagara, capture of the Caledonia, Grand Island and Ararat, Fort Niagara, Patriot War (Upper Canada Rebellion), Lafayette's visit to Buffalo (1825), Lewiston (New York), early mapping of Great Lakes and of Mississippi River, peace centennial on Niagara River (1914), name of Buffalo, Grace Episcopal Parish (Black Rock), Father Jean de Brébeuf, Joliet's lost map of the Mississippi.

Newspapers. Docs. no. JJ-1 - JJ-7. Oct. 13, 1886 - Sept. 22, 1917.

Newspaper articles on the dedication of the tablet marking the site of Scott's Battery during the Battle of Queenston; history of Cataract House, Niagara Falls; accounts of exploits of Peter Nissen and Annie Edson Taylor at the Falls in 1901; "The Owner of Niagara," from the New York Sun (Aug. 2, 1891), a biographical article on the Porter family (chiefly Peter B. Porter).

Maps. Docs. no. KK-1 - KK-34. 1670-1921.

Published maps; five hand-drawn items. Used by Peter A. Porter in his historical studies. Hand-drawn items by Porter are plan of Fort George in 1812; the Fort George plan of battle, May 27, 1813; plan of the siege of Fort Erie, 1814; and map of Black Rock, ca. 1812; a fifth map, of certain lots in Buffalo, ca. 1900, is unsigned. Certain published maps and photostatic copies of maps in the John Carter Brown Library have not been reproduced, as noted on the Catalog cards.

Roll 12: Pictures. Docs. no. LL-1 - LL-58. 1800-1842.

Inclusive class dates are content dates. Types of materials: Engravings, half-tones, photographs, with a few drawings, assembled by Peter A. Porter in connection with his historical studies. Drawings by Porter include a portage blockhouse, poling a Durham boat on the Niagara River, and Fort Schlosser, 1810. Published items are from such sources as Dawson's Battles of the United States and Lossing's History of the United States, illustrating Revolutionary War events, but some captioned by Porter as suitable for illustrating War of 1812 episodes. Photographs include Laure Secord's house at Queenston; Joel Robinson, pilot of The Maid of the Mist through the Whirlpool Rapids, and a group photograph of the Porter family at the Barton homestead in Lewiston.

Miscellaneous. Docs. no. MM-1 - MM-15. Feb. 5, 1829 - June 20, 1903.

Types of documents: Chiefly published ephemera; manuscript minutes of proceedings of proprietors of Goat Island, 1865-79; a letter from Charles Dickens, May 3, 1842, expressing regrets at being unable to meet Porter, and a letter to Peter Augustus Porter from John Quincy Adams, Apr. 25, 1846. Ephemera relate to Cataract House, Niagara Frontier Landmarks Association, opening of the State Reservation at Niagara Falls, and reception for President Johnson (1866).

Clay-Porter Correspondence. 190 letters. Feb. 10, 1816 - Nov. 13, 1843.

This class is arranged chronologically without a class or document number. Henry Clay's letters to Porter and the drafts of Porter's replies are interfiled. Four items are Clay letters to other men, including three earlier letters, Mar. 3, 1803, to William Taylor; Dec. 23, 1804, to Gabriel Lewis; Dec. 24, 1813, to Dr. William Thornton; and one later, Nov. 22, 1847, to Horace Greeley. There are 185 items, comprising 121 Clay letters to Porter and drafts of sixty-four of Porter's replies. The letters are largely political in content, of state and national import, many of Clay's marked "confidential." There are several undated items at end, including an unsigned letter in unknown hand, dated Oct. 27 (year illegible), written in Ashland. No abstracts appear on the Author Catalog cards, and there is no Subject Catalog to this class. The user interested in political history will want to scan them all.

This class comprises the personal correspondence between the two men. A few letters between them in their capacities as American Boundary Commissioner (Porter) and Secretary of State (Clay) are in the "Boundary Commission" class E, reproduced on Rolls 6-7 of the microfilm publication. There is also one Clay letter in "Miscellaneous" class FF, reproduced on Roll 11.

Addenda to the Guide

Note--The frames on each roll have been numbered sequentially, and these notes refer to the film by roll and frame number.

- Roll 1. Frame 0066: Second card lacks document number. It is A-356.
Frame 0113: Third card lacks document number. It is E-43.
Frame 0114: Fifth card bears erroneous document number. It should be E-94.
Frame 0296: Third card lacks document number. It is A-627.
- Roll 2. Frame 0416: Duplicate exposure of frame 0415, to reproduce writing covered by torn overlap.
- Roll 7A. Frame 0094: Duplicate exposure of frame 0093, to reproduce writing on verso of right half of document.
Frame 0136: Duplicate exposure of frame 0135, to reproduce writing covered by fold-over.
- Roll 7B. Frame 0272. Duplicate exposure of frame 0271, to reproduce writing covered by torn overlap.
- Roll 8. Frame 0592: Duplicate exposure of frame 0591 to reproduce writing on torn overlap.
Frame 0712: Duplicate exposure of frame 0711, to reproduce writing covered by torn overlap.
- Roll 9. Frame 0337: Duplicate exposure of frame 0336, to reproduce writing covered by torn overlap.

Availability of the Microfilm Publication

The microfilm edition of the Peter B. Porter Papers may be purchased from the Buffalo and Erie County Historical Society at the current price of ten dollars per roll. Purchasers of the complete microfilm (Rolls 1-12 and 7B) will be supplied with a copy of the pamphlet guide free of charge. The pamphlet is available separately at a price of one dollar to purchasers of only certain rolls of the film or to anyone wishing the guide without the film. Libraries may borrow any of the rolls on interlibrary loan. Borrowing libraries receive the pamphlet, which must be returned with the film.

Orders for purchase should be addressed to the Buffalo and Erie County Historical Society, 25 Nottingham Court, Buffalo, New York 14216. Requests for interlibrary loan should be addressed by the borrowing library to the library of the Historical Society at the same address.

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Peter B. Porter papers addendum, (tc)



System Control Number : (OCoLC)935539794

Local Holding : VTP1

Local Call Number : Mss. A2016-03

Main Entry-Personal Name : Porter, Peter B. (Peter Buell), 1773-1844.

Title Statement : Peter B. Porter papers addendum, 1815-1844.

Physical Description : (0.2 linear ft.)

Physical Description : 3 folders (40 items)

Content Type : text txt

Media Type : unmediated n

Organization of Materials : The collection is arranged into two series: I. Letters sent, 1816-1844. II. Letters received, 1815-1844. Chronological.

General Note : These letters were a later donation than the Peter B. Porter papers (Mss. C80-1) and therefore were not microfilmed (M69-3). Folder 1 is letters sent; Folders 2 and 3 are letters received but are divided by photocopies (1815-1844) and originals (1827-1839).

Formatted Notes : Series I. Letters sent: Letter to Honbl. Samuel M. Hopkins 1822 Sept. 12, concerns proposed harbor to be constructed at either Buffalo or Black Rock. ; Letter to G.A. Worth, 1816 May 25, regarding note due at Worth's bank. ; Letter to H.J. Stow, 1844 Jan. 6, concerning a railroad stock purchase. -- Series II. Letters received: Many letters soliciting his recommendation for various government positions, including postmaster of Albany, U.S. Navy agent at New York City, and keeper of the Genesee Light House; other letters concern personal and business matters. Also includes, five ALS, from Benjamin Barton, David Thompson, Joseph McCollum, A.S. Porter and Willis Hall. Subjects include the sale of Niagara Falls land, a geography written by Thompson, and a visit to Syracuse by "Mr. Clay."

Restrictions On Access Note : Researchers wishing to access this collection must apply for a Scholar Pass and present valid photo ID upon arrival to the library.

Summary Note : Collection includes letters sent and received by Peter B. Porter. Letter to Samuel M.

Hopkins is typescript and bulk of letters received are photocopies

Preferred Citation Of Described Materials Note : Buffalo History Museum Research Library, Mss. A2016-03, Peter B. Porter papers addendum.

Reproduction Note : Typescript and photocopies.

535 : Original letter to Honbl. Samuel M. Hopkins owned by Edwin C. Hutton; 370 Brantwood Dr., Snyder, NY

535 : Original letters received owned by Richard C. Frajola, 1982.

Terms Governing Use And Reproduction Note : Written permission required to reproduce and/or publish. Information on use and fees may be obtained from the Director of Library and Archives.

Immed. Source Of Acquisition : Letter to G.A. Worth. Newman, Julia Sweet; P.O. Box 156, Battle Creek, MI; purchase; 1965/07/24; unknown; \$15.00.

Immed. Source Of Acquisition : Letter to Honbl. Samuel M. Hopkins. Hutton, Edwin C.; 370 Brantwood Dr., Snyder, NY; gift; 1962/04/27; unknown.

Immed. Source Of Acquisition : Letter to Horatio J. Stow. Newman, Julia Sweet; P.O. Box 156, Battle Creek, MI; purchase; 1965/07/06; unknown; \$20.00.

Immed. Source Of Acquisition : Letters received, original. Unknown - found in BECHS vault; unknown; 0000/00/00; 93- 84.

Immed. Source Of Acquisition : Letters received, photocopies. Grande, Joseph; D'Youville College, 320 Porter Ave., Buffalo, NY 14201; gift; 1993/02/09; 93-26.

Biographical or Historical Data : U.S. congressman, major general of militia in War of 1812, Secretary of State of New York; involved in commercial ventures with brother Augustus in the early transportation industry of the northwest frontier.

Action Note : Reprocessed/retroconverted; 2016/01/15; Amy Miller.

Subject-Topical Term : Civil service positions New York (State).

Subject-Topical Term : Geographers.

Subject-Topical Term : Real property New York (State) Niagara Falls.

Subject-Geographic Name : Buffalo Harbor (N.Y.)

Added Entry-Personal Name : Barton, Benjamin, b. 1771.

Added Entry-Personal Name : Hall, Willis.

Added Entry-Personal Name : Hopkins, Samuel M. (Samuel Miles), 1772-1837.

Added Entry-Personal Name : McCoillum, Joseph.

Added Entry-Personal Name : Porter, Augustus Seymour, 1798-1872.

Added Entry-Personal Name : Stow, Horatio J., -1859.

Added Entry-Personal Name : Thompson, David, 1770-1857.

Added Entry-Personal Name : Worth, G.A.

Status	Bar Code	Branch	Location	Call Number	Volume	Issue
IN		VTPI	Manuscript room	Mss. A2016-03		